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EXAMINER	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/724,157	MURATANI, MASATAKA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ALLEN H. NGUYEN	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 April 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-11* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-11* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *21 May 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

- This office action is responsive to the following communication: Amendment filed on 04/16/2008.
- Claims 1-11 are currently pending in the application.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 04/16/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

2. With respect to applicant's argument that "Kimoto does not disclose that its laser beam sensor measures the displacement of its sheet or image, much less the size of the image on the surfaces of the sheets. Kimoto discloses that the displacements L1 and L2 are measured at the time of shipment of the main body L by a person in charge (col. 7, lines 15-18), but does not disclose how the displacements are measured. Moreover, Kimoto merely discloses determining the displacements L1 and L2, not the size of the images on its obverse and reverse surfaces. Thus, Kimoto does not disclose either "first measuring means for measuring a size of the image formed on the first surface of the sheet, when the image formed on the first surface of the sheet is subjected to thermal fixation and conveyed" or "second measuring means for measuring a size of the image formed on the second surface of the sheet, when the image formed on the second surface of the sheet is subjected to thermal fixation and conveyed" as recited in claim 1.

In response: Regarding claim 1, Kimoto '365 discloses an image forming apparatus (image forming apparatus 1, fig. 1) having an automatic double-side unit (image forming apparatus having the double side print mode function, col. 1, line 50) and being capable of effecting printing on both surfaces of a paper sheet (i.e., images can always be printed on obverse and reverse surfaces of a copying paper sheet at proper positions; Col. 1, lines 60-65), comprising:

first measuring means (Image edit section 84, fig. 11) for measuring a size of the image formed on the first surface of the sheet (i.e., the image edit section 84 calculates a start position (scan position of laser beam B) A1 of the effective scan region X on the photosensitive drum 20 on the basis of the read-out first set value L1 (step 104), and controls the laser unit 27 on the basis of the start position A1 (step 105). The positions of formation of the first image on the photosensitive drum 20 are shifted in accordance with the displacement amounts L1 and 12 of the copying sheet C. Thereby, the image edit section 84 measured a **size** and adjusted image to be printed at the proper position on each of the obverse surfaces of the copying sheet C; **Col. 4, lines 1-15; Col. 7, lines 29-34, and Col. 7, lines 63-66, figs. 12, 14-15**), when the image formed on the first surface of the sheet is subjected to thermal fixation and conveyed (i.e., a heat roller 44 for thermal fixation and a pressure-contact roller 45 put in contact with the heat roller 44 are provided downstream of the photosensitive drum 20 along the first convey path 40; Col. 4, lines 50-55, fig. 14);

second measuring means (Image edit section 84, fig. 11) for measuring a size of the image formed on the second surface of the sheet (i.e., the image edit section 84

calculates a start position (scan position of laser beam B) A2 of the effective scan region X on the photosensitive drum 20 on the basis of the read-out second set value L2 (step 106), and controls the laser unit 27 on the basis of the start position A2 (step 107). The positions of formation of the second image on the photosensitive drum 20 are shifted in accordance with the displacement amounts L1 and 12 of the copying sheet C. Thereby, the image edit section 84 measured a size and adjusted image to be printed at the proper position on each of the reverse surfaces of the copying sheet C; Col. 7, lines 35-40, figs. 12, 14-15), when the image formed on the second surface of the sheet is subjected to thermal fixation and conveyed (i.e., a heat roller 44 for thermal fixation and a pressure-contact roller 45 put in contact with the heat roller 44 are provided; Col. 4, lines 50-55, fig. 15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kimoto (US 6,424,365).

Regarding claim 1, Kimoto '365 discloses an image forming apparatus (image forming apparatus 1, fig. 1) having an automatic double-side unit (image forming apparatus having the double side print mode function, col. 1, line 50) and being capable of effecting printing on both surfaces of a paper sheet (i.e., images can always be printed on obverse and reverse surfaces of a copying paper sheet at proper positions; Col. 1, lines 60-65), comprising:

setting means (The double-side print mode function, col. 1, lines 50-52) for setting an adjustment mode at a time of effecting printing on both surfaces of the paper sheet (i.e., an image forming apparatus and a method of controlling the apparatus, wherein images can always be printed on obverse and reverse surfaces of a copying paper sheet at proper positions; col. 1, lines 60-65);

first storage means (RAM 72, fig. 11) for prestoring predetermined image data that is used in the adjustment mode set by the setting means (i.e., a RAM 72 for storing data; Col. 5, lines 45-46);

first control means (System CPU 60, fig. 11) for executing a control to form an image on a first surface of the sheet using the image data stored in the first storage means, when the setting means sets the adjustment mode (i.e., a control section for shifting a formation position of the first image on the image carrying body by a first set amount, relative to a predetermined reference position; col. 2, lines 10-15);

first measuring means (Image edit section 84, fig. 11) for measuring a size of the image formed on the first surface of the sheet (i.e., the image edit section 84 calculates a start position (scan position of laser beam B) A1 of the effective scan region X on the

photosensitive drum 20 on the basis of the read-out first set value L1 (step 104), and controls the laser unit 27 on the basis of the start position A1 (step 105). The positions of formation of the first image on the photosensitive drum 20 are shifted in accordance with the displacement amounts L1 and 12 of the copying sheet C. Thereby, the image edit section 84 measured a size and adjusted image to be printed at the proper position on each of the obverse surfaces of the copying sheet C; Col. 7, lines 29-34, figs. 12, 14-15), when the image formed on the first surface of the sheet is subjected to thermal fixation and conveyed (i.e., a heat roller 44 for thermal fixation and a pressure-contact roller 45 put in contact with the heat roller 44 are provided downstream of the photosensitive drum 20 along the first convey path 40; Col. 4, lines 50-55, fig. 14);

second control means (System CPU 60, fig. 11) for executing a control to form an image on a second surface of the sheet using the image data stored in the first storage means (i.e., a control section for shifting a formation position of the second image on the image carrying body by a second set amount; col. 2, lines 15-20), when the sheet is reversely fed by the automatic double-side unit (i.e., the first convey path 40 and second convey path 50 constitute a sheet convey mechanism called "ADU" for effecting printing on both the obverse and reverse surfaces of the copying sheet C; col. 4, lines 60-65, figs. 3-10);

second measuring means (Image edit section 84, fig. 11) for measuring a size of the image formed on the second surface of the sheet (i.e., the image edit section 84 calculates a start position (scan position of laser beam B) A2 of the effective scan region X on the photosensitive drum 20 on the basis of the read-out second set value

L2 (step 106), and controls the laser unit 27 on the basis of the start position A2 (step 107). The positions of formation of the second image on the photosensitive drum 20 are shifted in accordance with the displacement amounts L1 and 12 of the copying sheet C. Thereby, the image edit section 84 measured a size and adjusted image to be printed at the proper position on each of the reverse surfaces of the copying sheet C; Col. 7, lines 35-40, figs. 12, 14-15), when the image formed on the second surface of the sheet is subjected to thermal fixation and conveyed (i.e., a heat roller 44 for thermal fixation and a pressure-contact roller 45 put in contact with the heat roller 44 are provided; Col. 4, lines 50-55, fig. 15);

calculation means (Control section 85, fig. 11) for calculating correction data for a printing magnification for image formation on the second surface of the sheet (i.e., the positions of formation of the first and second images on the photosensitive drum 20 are shifted in accordance with the displacement amounts L1 and 12 of the copying sheet C; Col. 7, lines 57-60), on the basis of a measurement result obtained by the first measuring means and a measurement result obtained by the second measuring means (i.e., the image can always be printed at the proper position on each of the obverse and reverse surfaces of the copying sheet C; Col. 7, lines 60-62);

second storage means (RAM 72, fig. 11) for storing the correction data calculated by the calculation means (i.e., a RAM 72 for storing data, an image correction section 73; Col. 5, lines 45-46).

Regarding claim 6, Kimoto '365 discloses the image forming apparatus (fig. 1), wherein the calculation means (Control section 85, fig. 11) calculates correction data that ensures a print position and dimensional precision of the image formed on the second surface of the sheet (i.e., the start positions A1 and A2 of the effective scan region X are calculated by the arithmetic operations; col. 7, lines 40-50, fig. 14), which thermally contracts due to thermal fixation of the image formed on the first surface of the sheet (i.e., a heat roller 44 for thermal fixation and a pressure-contact roller 45 put in contact with the heat roller 44 are provided; Col. 4, lines 50-55, fig. 14), in relation to the image formed on the first surface of the sheet (i.e., the positions of formation of the first and second images on the photosensitive drum 20 are shifted in accordance with the displacement amounts L1 and 12 of the copying sheet C. Thereby, the image can always be printed at the proper position on each of the obverse and reverse surfaces of the copying sheet C; Col. 7, lines 57-62), when the sheet recovers from the thermal contraction (i.e., a heat roller for thermally fixing the image transferred on the paper sheet, which has come out of the photosensitive drum; Col. 4, lines 50-55).

Regarding claim 7, Kimoto '365 discloses the image forming apparatus (Fig. 1), wherein the calculation means (The laser beam B main-scans, fig. 2) calculates correction data for a magnification in a main-scan direction and a magnification in a sub-scan direction (i.e., the main scanning and sub-scanning effected by the repetition of the main scanning produce an electrostatic latent image, which corresponds to the read

image acquired by the read section, on the surface of the photosensitive drum 20; Col. 3, lines 40-50, fig. 2).

Regarding claim 8, Kimoto '365 discloses the image forming apparatus (Fig. 1), wherein the second storage means (non-volatile memory (NVM) 83, fig. 11) stores correction data for a magnification in a main-scan direction and a magnification in a sub-scan direction (i.e., as a main function, the scanning of the laser beam B over the photosensitive drum 20. The data for this control is stored in the non-volatile memory (NVM) 83; col. 5, lines 60-65).

Regarding claim 9, Kimoto '365 discloses an image forming apparatus (image forming apparatus 1, fig. 1) having an automatic double-side unit (image forming apparatus having the double side print mode function, col. 1, line 50) and being capable of effecting printing on both surfaces of a paper sheet (i.e., images can always be printed on obverse and reverse surfaces of a copying paper sheet at proper positions; col. 1, lines 60-65), comprising:

setting means (The double-side print mode function, col. 1, lines 50-52) for setting an adjustment mode at a time of effecting printing on both surfaces of the paper sheet (i.e., an image forming apparatus and a method of controlling the apparatus, wherein images can always be printed on obverse and reverse surfaces of a copying paper sheet at proper positions; col. 1, lines 60-65);

first storage means (RAM 72, fig. 11) for pre-storing predetermined image data

that is used in the adjustment mode set by the setting means (i.e., a RAM 72 for storing data; Col. 5, lines 45-46);

first image forming means (The first convey path 40, fig. 1) for forming an image on a first surface of the sheet using the image data stored in the first storage means, when the setting means sets the adjustment mode (i.e., the first convey path 40 begins at the position corresponding to each sheet feed cassette 30 and extends to an output port 41, via the photosensitive drum 20. The output port 41 is open at an output tray 33 formed continuous with an outer peripheral surface of the main body 1; col. 4, lines 35-40, fig. 1);

first measuring means (Image edit section 84, fig. 11) for measuring a size of the image formed on the first surface of the sheet (i.e., the image edit section 84 calculates a start position (scan position of laser beam B) A1 of the effective scan region X on the photosensitive drum 20 on the basis of the read-out first set value L1 (step 104), and controls the laser unit 27 on the basis of the start position A1 (step 105). The positions of formation of the first image on the photosensitive drum 20 are shifted in accordance with the displacement amounts L1 and 12 of the copying sheet C. Thereby, the image edit section 84 measured a size and adjusted image to be printed at the proper position on each of the obverse surfaces of the copying sheet C; Col. 7, lines 29-34, figs. 12, 14-15), when the image formed on the first surface of the sheet is subjected to thermal fixation and conveyed (i.e., a heat roller 44 for thermal fixation and a pressure-contact roller 45 put in contact with the heat roller 44 are provided downstream of the photosensitive drum 20 along the first convey path 40; Col. 4, lines 50-55, fig. 14);

second image forming means (A second convey path 50, fig. 1) for forming an image on a second surface of the sheet using the image data stored in the first storage means, when the sheet is reversely fed by the automatic double-side unit (i.e., a second convey path 50 is provided to extend from the end point of the first convey path 40 to that point on the first convey path, which is upstream of the photosensitive drum 20 and register roller 43; col. 4, lines 55-60, fig. 1);

second measuring means (Image edit section 84, fig. 11) for measuring a size of the image formed on the second surface of the sheet (i.e., the image edit section 84 calculates a start position (scan position of laser beam B) A2 of the effective scan region X on the photosensitive drum 20 on the basis of the read-out second set value L2 (step 106), and controls the laser unit 27 on the basis of the start position A2 (step 107). The positions of formation of the second image on the photosensitive drum 20 are shifted in accordance with the displacement amounts L1 and 12 of the copying sheet C. Thereby, the image edit section 84 measured a size and adjusted image to be printed at the proper position on each of the reverse surfaces of the copying sheet C; Col. 7, lines 35-40, figs. 12, 14-15), when the image formed on the second surface of the sheet is subjected to thermal fixation and conveyed (i.e., a heat roller 44 for thermal fixation and a pressure-contact roller 45 put in contact with the heat roller 44 are provided; Col. 4, lines 50-55, fig. 15);

calculation means (Control section 85, fig. 11) for calculating correction data for a printing magnification for image formation on the second surface of the sheet (i.e., the positions of formation of the first and second images on the photosensitive drum 20 are

shifted in accordance with the displacement amounts L1 and 12 of the copying sheet C; Col. 7, lines 57-60), on the basis of a measurement result obtained by the first measuring means and a measurement result obtained by the second measuring means (i.e., the image can always be printed at the proper position on each of the obverse and reverse surfaces of the copying sheet C; Col. 7, lines 60-62);

second storage means (control sections, fig. 11) for storing the correction data calculated by the calculation means (i.e., a RAM 72 for storing data, an image correction section 73; Col. 5, lines 45-46);

control means (CPU 80, fig. 11) for executing, when an image is to be formed on the second surface of the sheet in double-side printing (i.e., a second image is formed on the image carrying body, the paper sheet, which has come out of the image carrying body, is reversed and fed once again to the image carrying body and thereby the second image on the image carrying body is printed on the other surface of the paper sheet; col. 2, lines 5-10), a control to form the image by correcting a print magnification using the correction data stored in the second storage means (i.e., the second image would be printed on the reverse surface C2 of copying sheet C with a displacement from the proper position on the reverse surface C2; col. 6, lines 54-56, fig. 15).

Regarding claim 10, Kimoto '365 discloses the image forming apparatus (image forming apparatus 1, fig. 1), wherein the control means (CPU 80, fig. 11) corrects a magnification in a main-scan direction and a magnification in a sub-scan direction using the correction data (i.e., the main scanning and sub-scanning effected by the repetition

of the main scanning produce an electrostatic latent image, which corresponds to the read image acquired by the read section, on the surface of the photosensitive drum 20; col. 3, lines 45-50).

Regarding claim 11, claim 11 is the method claim of device claim 1. Therefore, method claim 11 is rejected for the reason given in device claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimoto (US 6,424,365) in view of Metzler et al. (US 2003/0002891).

Regarding claim 2, Kimoto '365 does not explicitly show the image forming apparatus, wherein the first storage means pre-stores predetermined image data including a triangular solid mark and a rectangular solid mark.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Metzler '891. In particular, Metzler '891 teaches the image forming apparatus (Printing Apparatus for multicolor printing, fig. 1), wherein the first storage means pre-stores predetermined image data including a triangular solid mark (i.e., first

the point A and than the point B on the opposite side of the triangular registration mark 30; page 4, paragraph [0031], fig. 4) and a rectangular solid mark (i.e., as rectangles which are scanned with signals by a sensor device 70 arranged above the conveyor belt 40; page 2, paragraph [0016]).

In view of the above, having the system of Kimoto and then given the well-established teaching of Metzler, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Kimoto as taught by Metzler to include: the image forming apparatus, wherein the first storage means pre-stores predetermined image data including a triangular solid mark and a rectangular solid mark, since Metzler stated on page 1, paragraph [0003] that such a modification would ensure the image forming device contains an imaging sensor to determine the position of the geometric focal point of the first and second registration mark with respect to an individual spatially fixed reference point .

7. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimoto (US 6,424,365) in view of Sato et al. (US 2002/0176725).

Regarding claim 3, Kimoto '365 does not explicitly show the image forming apparatus, wherein the first measuring means uses one or more sensors to measure a passage time of the predetermined image formed on the first surface of the sheet.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Sato '725. In particular, Sato '725 teaches the image forming apparatus

(Image Forming Apparatus, fig. 1), wherein the first measuring means (a control means CR, fig. 5) uses one or more sensors (sensors SS, SS1, and SS2, fig. 1) to measure a passage time of the predetermined image formed on the first surface of the sheet (i.e., by these sensors SS, SS1, and SS2, the leading edge passage time of the recording sheet is detected; page 5, paragraph [0089]).

In view of the above, having the system of Kimoto and then given the well-established teaching of Sato, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Kimoto as taught by Sato to include: the image forming apparatus, wherein the first measuring means uses one or more sensors to measure a passage time of the predetermined image formed on the first surface of the sheet, since Sato stated on page 1, paragraph [0002] that such a modification would ensure a means to shorten an interval between the conveying start times of the preceding conveyed recording sheet and the following conveyed recording sheet, that is, to shorten the sheet feed interval.

Regarding claim 4, Kimoto '365 does not explicitly show the image forming apparatus, wherein the second measuring means uses one or more sensors to measure a passage time of the predetermined image formed on the second surface of the sheet.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Sato '725. In particular, Sato '725 teaches the image forming apparatus (fig. 1), wherein the second measuring means (the secondary sheet feed means S2, fig.

1) uses one or more sensors (sensors SS, SS1, and SS2, fig. 1) to measure a passage time of the predetermined image formed on the second surface of the sheet (i.e., the travel time of the recording sheet from the sensor to the secondary sheet feed position is added, the secondary sheet feed arrival time is obtained; page 5, paragraph [0089], fig. 2).

In view of the above, having the system of Kimoto and then given the well-established teaching of Sato, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Kimoto as taught by Sato to include: the image forming apparatus, wherein the first measuring means uses one or more sensors to measure a passage time of the predetermined image formed on the first surface of the sheet, since Sato stated on page 1, paragraph [0002] that such a modification would ensure a means to shorten an interval between the conveying start times of the preceding conveyed recording sheet and the following conveyed recording sheet, that is, to shorten the sheet feed interval.

Regarding claim 5, Kimoto '365 does not explicitly show the image forming apparatus, wherein the calculation means calculates correction data on the basis of a speed of conveyance of the paper sheet, a passage time of the predetermined image measured by the first measuring means, and a passage time of the predetermined image measured by the second measuring means.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Sato '725. In particular, Sato '725 teaches the image forming apparatus

(fig. 1), wherein the calculation means calculates correction data on the basis of a speed of conveyance of the paper sheet (i.e., the recording sheet conveying speed is determined to the target image forming speed; page 5, paragraph [0080]), a passage time of the predetermined image measured by the first measuring means (i.e., the leading edge passage time of the recording sheet is detected; page 5, paragraph [0089]), and a passage time of the predetermined image measured by the second measuring means (i.e., the travel time of the recording sheet from the sensor to the secondary sheet feed position is added; page 5, paragraph [0089], fig. 2).

In view of the above, having the system of Kimoto and then given the well-established teaching of Sato, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Kimoto as taught by Sato to include: the image forming apparatus, wherein the calculation means calculates correction data on the basis of a speed of conveyance of the paper sheet, a passage time of the predetermined image measured by the first measuring means, and a passage time of the predetermined image measured by the second measuring means, since Sato stated on page 1, paragraph [0002] that such a modification would ensure a technology to shorten the time necessary for forming one sheet of an image, there are a means to increase the conveying speed of the recording sheet in the image forming process.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kobayashi et al. (US 2003/0020228) discloses Image forming apparatus and cut sheet conveyance control method.

Abe et al. (US 6,185,380) discloses image forming apparatus having independent recording media discharge passages.

Tsukamoto et al. (US 2004/0190927) discloses Image formation device.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALLEN H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)270-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on (571)-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Allen H Nguyen/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625